

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

F-7-6

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Singleton Burgee House, Addison

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N/S Route 80 (Fingerboard Rd.)

6th ED7

CITY, TOWN

Near north end of Big Woods Rd. — VICINITY OF Urbana

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Map 97 Parcel 24

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hatcher

Telephone #: 865-5862

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

Ijamsville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21754

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Court House

Liber #: 501

Folio #: 495

STREET & NUMBER

Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

7-7-6

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Singleton Burgee House is a two part two and one half story rectangular stuccoed stone residence which faces south from the north side of Route 80 at the intersection of Price's Distillery Road. The building sits approximately fifty yards off of the road and is unrelated to any other building.

The house was built in two main parts. The east section which is the oldest part of the building is stuccoed stone and is five bays wide. A four panel door with four light transom is located in the third bay on the first level; double hung 2/2 windows with louvered shutters occupy the remaining four bays and all bays on the second level. A flat roofed victorian porch with decorative columns and lattice work extends from the south side on the first level between the first and fifth bay. Two pedimented dormer windows with decorative lattices are situated on the roof over the second and fourth bay.

The slate roof is finished by a boxed cornice with an intricately carved dentiled frieze. Two inside end brick chimneys are located on the east and west ends. The north side of the west part of the house is three bays wide; a four panel door with four light transom and wood lintel is located in the second bay on the first level. Double hung 2/2 windows with louvered shutters occupy the remaining bays on the first level and all of the bays on the second level. Wooden lintels are located over both windows on the first level. Two pedimented dormer windows identical to those on the south side are located on the roof. A wooden snow stop runs along the edge of the roof. An opening in the foundation is located below the third bay in the northwest corner. Two small 2/2 windows are situated in the east and west gable. The entire building is constructed on a high random stone foundation except for the porches which are built on brick.

The east part of the house which is stuccoed brick laid in common bond is three bays wide; a recessed arched entrance with modern twelve pane and panelled door with four pane sidelight (original three pane sidelights underneath) is located in the first bay from the west side. Double hung 6/6 windows with louvered shutters occupy the remaining bays on the first level and all three bays on the second level. A stepped brick cornice finished the slate roof. A pedimented dormer window identical to those on the west part is located on the roof over the second bay. A single inside end brick chimney straddles the gable on the east end.

Two frame additions project from the east part of the main block; to the east a one story single bay addition and to the north extends a two story addition two bays wide and long. A nine step open porch covers a back entrance on the south end corner of the two story addition. Double hung 2/2 windows are located on both levels of the addition. A modern inside brick chimney extends from the north end of the addition. A well which is no longer in use is located southeast of the house; unmarked graves are located along a fence row south of the house and several 19th century buildings in disrepair including a barn are located north of the residence.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-7-6

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	c.1800	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Thomas Burgee?
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Singleton Burgee House is significant to the Urbana area as the home of Singleton Burgee, a local legendary figure in addition to having many interesting architectural features.

The house is believed to have been built for Thomas Burgee soon after the land was purchased from William Duvall in 1781.¹ In 1832, Thomas Burgee willed his land to Singleton and Thomas Burgee, Jr.² Singleton Burgee soon became one of the largest land and slave owners in the area. According to Williams, History of Frederick County, Maryland, Burgee also ran a distilling business.³

Although additions and changes have been made to the house, many significant architectural features remain. In the western and oldest part of the house is detailed beaded baseboards, chairrails and pegged beam construction in the attic and basement. Of particular interest on the exterior of the building is stucco over stone with an intricately decorated frieze identical to that on the Rock Hall Mansion near the Johnson Furnace which was built in 1812.

Victorian marble fireplaces believed to be from a house in Baltimore and a large Victorian walnut bannister are located in the east section of the house.

According to local legend it was this stairway where a mysterious dog wailed during the last days of Singleton Burgee's life. At the moment of his death a man dressed in a black cape on horseback arrived at the house for Burgee.

Jane Ijams Burgee acquired the land after the death of her husband and it remained in the family until it was sold at public sale in 1952.⁴ The house was given to Elinor Burgee, daughter of Jane and Singleton Burgee and wife of Charles Hendry around 1868 and later was given to Martha C. Addison daughter of Charles and Elinor Hendry. After Frank Addison, the son of Martha Addison died the house was put up for public sale. The house is currently used as a private residence.

1 Frederick County Land Records Liber WR2 Folio 199

2 Frederick County Register of Wills Liber GME Folio 318

3 History of Frederick County, Williams, pg. 1285,1286

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

4 Frederick County Land Records Liber 501 Folio 495

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Moylan, Charles E; The Story of a Country Village of Frederick County, Ijamsville
 Case #17015 Equity Circuit Court for Frederick County

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 182 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Historic Preservation

DATE

2-8-78

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall; 12 East Church Street

TELEPHONE

663-8300

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

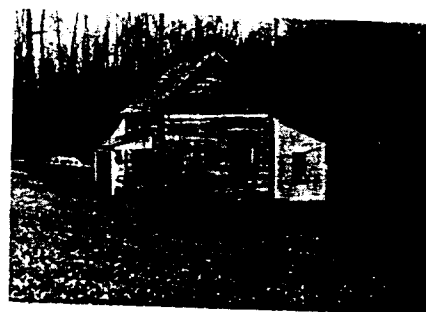
27. "Addi" - This stone and frame home is built on "The Resurvey on Daniel's Small Tract." Thomas Worthington sold the property to Singleton Burgee in 1835. According to the Addisons the original house was built in 1778. The west end is the oldest with two rooms up and two down. In the center hall of the present house can be seen the original stone door step, deeply worn by time. There are marble fireplaces, and one has an iron fireplace lining, with flowers in relief, which may have been made at Cacocin Furnace. The foundations of the slave quarters remain on the property, as does a log tenant house. Under the present kitchen is the old kitchen, in which a stone bench with a wooden seat is built into the wall. Slaves are said to be buried along the fence row, and a favorite woman in the center of the front yard. Singleton Burgee hoped to own 100 slaves, but each time, one died, or something untoward occurred, so he never met his goal. The slaves had no love for Singleton and originated many stories about him, leading to the persistent belief that the place is haunted. It is said that as Singleton lay on his deathbed, a man wearing a black cape and riding a black horse came to his home. He stood over Singleton's bed and intoned, "Are you ready, Singleton Burgee?" then disappeared. For the last three days of Singleton's life, a strange black dog was seen sitting on the stairs to the second floor, then it too was gone.

According to Mr. Frank Addison, during the war, Union troops were camped in the field at the spring, while a Confederate soldier was hidden in a secret room in the basement. The room remains today. The troops are said to have drunk the spring dry. Traces of the Old Braddock Road can still be seen behind the house. (Hatcher)



27. Addison

28. This log home is notable as one of the few that have been restored, showing how it must have looked in its earliest days. The log section has very low ceilings, and had one room down and one room up. A frame addition came later. This may have been a tenant house on the Worthington property. (Litteral)



28. Log Home

29. This home was once the property of Singleton Burgee, and is thought to be at least 150 years old. The original 6 room log house has two later additions. There are two marble fireplaces. At one time it belonged to the Quynn and Warfield families. The old Burgee bridge was in the meadow, and was only recently washed away by a flood. An old slate quarry remains on the property. There were slave quarters at one time. (McDonough)



29. McDonough Home

Urbana Civic Association
1976 History and Legends of Urbana Election District.
Frederick, Maryland: Frederick High School Press.

Weinberg, Alice T.
1979 Spirits of Frederick.
Frederick, Maryland Studio 20, Inc.



The Devil On Horseback

In 1835, a strange, lanky man in black appeared out of nowhere and departed as suddenly as he had arrived, after causing three days of utter confusion. He had come to see Singleton Burgee who owned Addison, a large stone house in Centerville, a community between Urbana and Monrovia.

Burgee was a wealthy gentleman farmer, owner of many acres, who wanted to be able to brag he owned a hundred slaves. But every time he accumulated ninety-eight or ninety-nine, something untoward happened. He could never quite make his goal.

As a result, he became frustrated and was cruel to the slaves he did own. They were mistreated and were always running away. Many were beaten severely, and many died and were buried along the fence rows of the plantation as was the custom. To this day, some folks believe that all the land thereabouts is haunted because of the pain and sorrow the slaves suffered at the hands of Burgee.

The slaves hated him and told ugly stories, both true and false, about Burgee and his methods of punishment. They called him the meanest man in Frederick County, and the account of his death is still remembered.

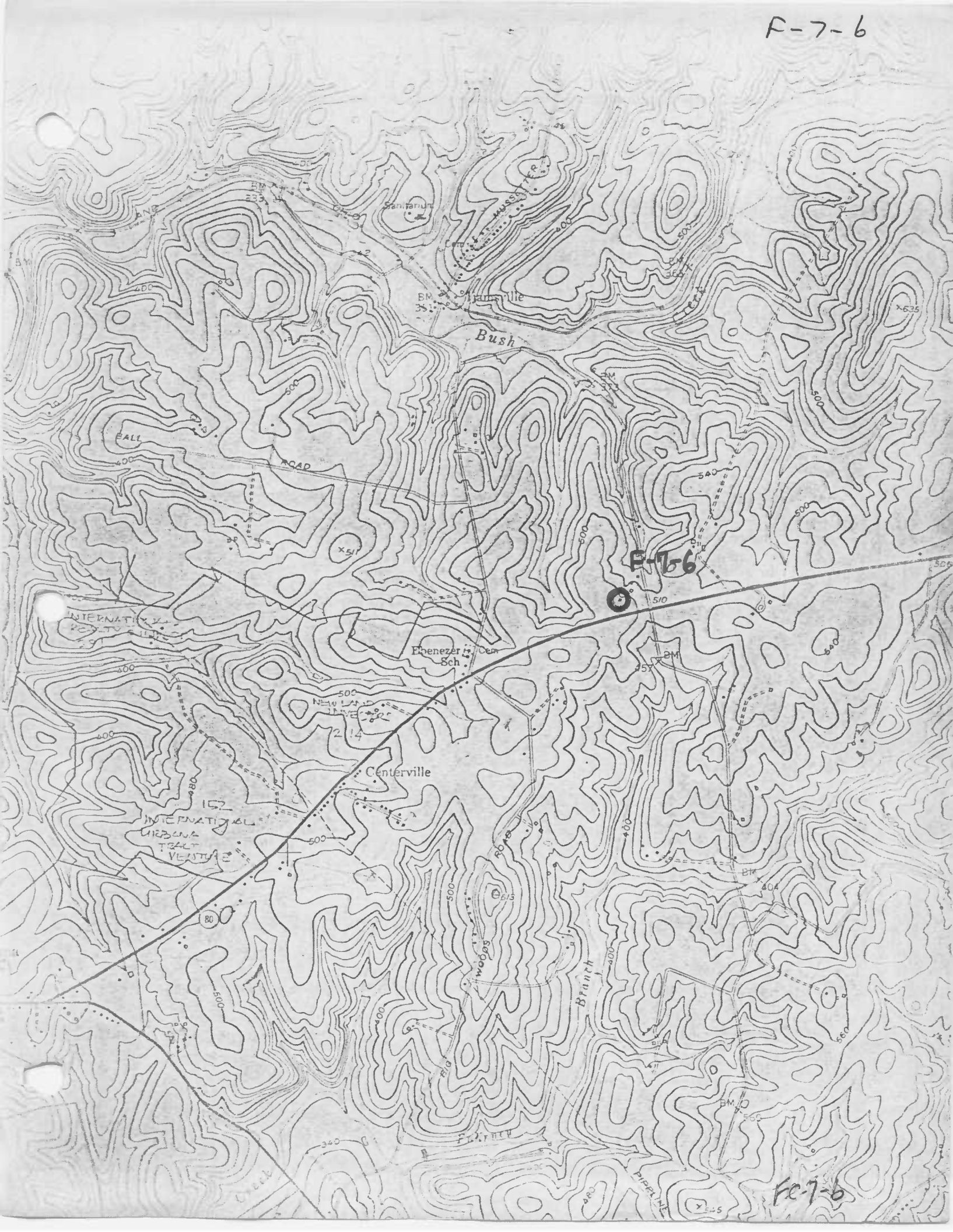
Before daylight one morning, a dark man on a black horse came riding furiously up to the front porch of Burgee's house, a hooded black cape covering him from head to boots. Told the master was in bed and would see no one, he sprang from his horse and brushed the houseboy aside. Taking the stairs three steps at a time, he went and stood over Burgee loudly intoning, "Are you ready, Singleton, are you ready?"

The slaves said that for the next three days — the last three of Burgee's life — the angry stranger or his shadow blocked the stairs leading to the master bedroom. Burgee's slaves gathered in the yard from every direction, their hats in their hands, shaking and quaking. Some fell to their knees and prayed and sang mournful spirituals, but not one would try to pass the intruder to help his master.

After Burgee gasped his last breath, the phantom bounded down the steps, jumped on his snorting, prancing horse and disappeared in a clatter of loose stones down the dusty lane to the main road, his black cloak flying behind him.



FC-7-b





Singleton Burgee House
N/s Rte 80 west of Price's Distillery
Road

FC-7-6

Northwest view





FC-7-6

Singleton Burgee House
N/S Rte 80 west of Price's Distillery
Road
South side

56



Singleton Burgee House
N/S Rte 80 west of Price's
Distillery Road
North Side

FC-7-6





PC-7-6

Singleton Burgee House
N/S Rte 80 west of Price's

Distillery Road

Detail of Friezework, Southwest Corner

